



Division of Developmental Disabilities Services

The Learning Curve

“Enhancing the Knowledge of DDDS Professionals”

Supplemental Review Questions

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Aging with a Developmental Disability

True / False (Circle one):

1. T F The health of persons aging with a developmental disability is also affected by Lifestyle choices family genetics and environment.
2. T F Older persons with a developmental disability are not at greater risk for age related chronic diseases and health related functional impairments than the persons in the general population.
3. T F Older persons with Down syndrome have an increased risk for the early development of age-related visual and hearing disorders, seizure disorders and Alzheimer’s disease.
4. T F Older persons with Cerebral Palsy have an increased risk of death from bowel obstruction and intestinal perforation.
5. T F In the future, some situations will occur where the older person with a developmental disability may actually be providing care for the “caregiver.”

Multiple Choice:

6. Compared to the general population, which of the following statements are true:
 - A. Older persons with Down syndrome are at higher risk for developing Alzheimer disease at earlier ages.
 - B. Older persons with cerebral palsy may develop secondary conditions related to or caused by the lifelong consequences of the physical disability, including chronic pain, osteoarthritis, and osteoporosis.
 - C. Older adults with intellectual disabilities/mental retardation have difficulty communicating their symptoms.
 - D. All of the above
 - E. None of the above

7. How does aging affect persons with seizure disorders? (Circle the correct statement)
- A. The frequency of seizures always decreases as the individual ages.
 - B. There is no cumulative effect of long term use of seizure medications.
 - C. Decreased bone density and increased trauma and falls due to seizures may lead to fractures.
 - D. All of the above
 - E. None of the above
8. Circle the service-deliver model(s) is/are available to assist persons with Developmental Disabilities who are aging?
- A. Aging in place – adaptation as client needs, abilities and behaviors change.
 - B. Referral out, usually to long term care facility or other generic community programs.
 - C. Dementia-specific environment-specialized staff and setting.
 - D. All of the above
 - E. None of the above

Fill in the Blanks:

9. Agencies providing services need to be _____ sensitive and be able to work with local _____ provider agencies.
10. Aging individuals with Prader-Willi Syndrome may experience _____ or low-hormonal levels.